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CUCS
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VI CONFERENCE



CITIZENSHIP AND COMMON GOODS

University and international cooperation for safety,
environment and sustainable development

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The **University of Trento** (www.unitn.it) and the **International Cooperation Centre** (www.cci.eu) have organized the **6th CUCS Conference**, held in Trento from September 19 to 21, 2019. CUCS is the University Coordination for Development Cooperation, a network of more than 30 Italian universities.

The CUCS Conference series is designed and organized within the Italian academic community, with the goal of creating platform for mutual exchange and knowledge sharing among students, civil society organisations, scholars, policy makers, international agencies, national and local governments, profit and non-profit organizations and any other actor engaged in international cooperation for development, active citizenship, sustainability, human rights. CUCS conferences have become a forum to improve and share development cooperation practices, methodologies, processes and policies, to enable networking, exchanges of experiences as well as developing innovation and proposals for policy making.

CUCS Trento 2019 has created such forum through 4 plenary sessions, 18 parallel sessions and workshops, one round table and two side-events, where more than 300 participants shared their views, lessons learned and open challenges in such broad topic. A co-design and sharing knowledge perspectives have been taken, under the full recognition that development cooperation is part of all the three pillars of the academic mission: research, training, knowledge-sharing.

In the last decades development cooperation has undergone deep transformations, with new agendas, actors, approaches and goals. This has changed the related debate at international and national levels. CUCS Trento 2019 aimed at reflecting these changes

and to share the main open challenges and the innovation opportunities to face them in an increasingly inter-related and complex global dynamics.

The theme of CUCS Trento 2019 has been inspired by such continuous evolution of development cooperation, with special focus on **citizenship**, in its local and global meaning, and on the management of **common goods**, long-standing issues that are increasingly critical for sustainable development within the present and future global dynamics.

Citizenship has been intended as a network of relationships between local actors, institutional subjects, profit and non-profit organization, scientific research and innovation, a challenge for integration inclusion empowerment and ownership at local level, as keys to combine security and sustainability.

Common goods have been intended as natural and cultural resources, a complex environment that needs to be protected and valued, following a logic of balance of powers that allows to address and overcome disparities and to manage conflicts and inequalities, which are also crucial for sustainability in the struggle against poverty and in the sustainable use of resources.

Boa Ma Nhã, Maputo! Exploring the water-energy-food nexus for a sustainable territorial development in a fragmented and fragile metropolitan area in the Global South

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The paper presents some early findings of the research project “Boa_Ma_Nhã, Maputo!” (Politecnico di Milano in partnership with the Eduardo Mondlane University and AICS Italy) focused on the Boane, Moamba, and Namaacha districts, located at the outskirts of Maputo (the capital of Mozambique) and crossed by the Maputo Corridor (Maputo, Johannesburg, Durban).

More than 3,000,000 inhabitants live in this area, representing more than 13% of the Mozambican population and over 40% of the urban population of the country. The lack of information regarding existing inter-scalar patterns makes it an “unknown Metropolis”, fragmented in terms of administrative boundaries and governance and characterized by a high level of informality of flows and systems. The rural-urban balance is transforming due to migrations and progressive urbanization, land grabbing, deforestation, climate change, socio-economic and political instability, making peripheral districts of the fast-growing Maputo metropolitan system fragile territories in need to be framed in a synergic inter-scalar vision for a sustainable and integrated territorial development.

The scarcity and inconsistency of the available statistical data, the lack of cartographies, and the lack of investigations of economic-related transformations rise a challenge in terms of methodologies and tools to be developed in support of local actors to face this crucial task while coping with present urgent issues.

The research project embraces this challenge by proposing a multidisciplinary approach to tackle the development of the growing peri-urban environment of the City of Maputo in an integrated way, overcoming the traditional sectorial approach and considering the interdependencies between issues such as migrations and demographical transition, food and water security, climate change and natural hazard, local economic patterns (formal and informal), land tenure and cultural diversity, mobility and infrastructure.

More specifically the research aims to:

- produce integrated territorial scenarios and recommendations for the sustainable development of the area under study, to be made available to local administrations;
- test an integrated and repeatable multidisciplinary methodological approach in line with the complexity of metropolitan challenges in similar contexts;
- check the methodological approach through a locally relevant pilot project integrating agriculture, education and women empowerment;
- investigate methodologies to check economic, environmental and social impact through quantitative assessments.

Particular attention is devoted to the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, considering the potential evolution of the agriculture sector, backbone economy of the area, considering the whole food cycle and its multiple environmental, economic, social, cultural implications, with particular reference to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN-Habitat framework for urban-rural linkages.

Keywords: global south; fragile territories; sustainable development; Mozambique; Maputo; water energy food nexus; urban-rural linkage; interdisciplinary methods

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